

Statement of Barbara Colby - 12 September 1984

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Barbara Colby, soon to be divorced wife of William E. Colby, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (1973 - 76).

Thank-you for giving me this opportunity to appear before your committee in support of H.R. 5805. Two and a half years ago, my husband, our colleagues, and I appeared before this committee in support of Title VI. of the FY 1983 Intelligence Authorization Act. What was then an academic question has now become a real necessity.

I bring my case to you as an example of what is happening repeatedly in this country to women of my age and my experience. I have been married to a career executive employee of the United States Government for nearly 39 years.

Esteemed Members of This Committee, I believe that I now speak with more credibility than I could have two and a half years ago. I am not an isolated case. I am one of the 65 women who need and will benefit from the legislation now before you. I am here to speak for all of us.

My years as a CIA wife spanned my husband's entire career in the Agency---from being the wife of a career officer assigned overseas for more than 12 years to being the wife of the Director, Central Intelligence. During that time, I came to know well hundreds of our wives overseas, wives of all ranks in dozens of our stations. I never ceased to admire the extraordinary devotion shown by these remarkable women in meeting the challenges presented daily to them--in raising their families and in contributing valiant

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support to their husbands' assignments in the overseas missions of our government.

In the commission appointing my husband, a Foreign Service Reserve Officer, to be a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America, and signed by President Eisenhower on 28 May 1959, are the words:

"Reposing special trust and confidence in
your integrity, prudence and ability..."

I believe that this trust was also imposed in CIA spouses. We believe that we have fulfilled this trust.

Gentlemen, I call upon your ~~sense~~ sense of honor and fairness in considering the urgent need for this legislation presently before you.